

## COMMENT OF THE DAY

### New Talks

THE projected meeting in Washington between President Eisenhower, Sir Winston Churchill, Mr. Dulles, Mr. Eden and their advisers must be regarded as a natural development consequent on the failure of the Geneva delegates to reach agreement on any of the main aspects of the Korean and Indo-China problems. The move must also be appraised in conjunction with the new international situation created by the failure of the Geneva discussions. In effect a new phase of the cold war is about to open and the Washington conference is timed to meet the changed situation. Clearly the invitation which President Eisenhower extended to Sir Winston, and which the Prime Minister has now accepted, anticipated the current situation at Geneva, but it was regarded as a provision for a contingency, and is being implemented only because of the Geneva breakdown. It is fairly apparent that the Western powers (certainly the United States and Britain) are now satisfied that the chances of getting Soviet agreement to a settlement anywhere are remote, and the signs are that they have now decided to adjust their strategy accordingly. That raises a number of problems. One is the scope and membership of a new defensive system for South-east Asia—a system which becomes imperative if the Indo-China talks are abandoned, or even if France under a new Government reaches an independent agreement with the Vietnamese. The prospects are that the new alliance will be on the lines of NATO, and if this is agreed upon at the Washington talks, the pact will involve not only Britain and America, but the Commonwealth countries in new military commitments.

AGREEMENT in general principle on a Southeast Asia defence pact raises a number of other important questions. President Eisenhower and Sir Winston Churchill will, for example, have to consider where a line against further Communist aggression should be drawn—and how it should be defended. This means that every trouble spot will have to be reviewed, and it can be assumed this will be done on the assumption that the West must prepare for an indefinite period of cold war as well as for defence against sudden aggression. Mr. Foster Dulles will probably put his emphasis on safeguards for Southeast Asia; Mr. Eden, on the other hand, is likely to emphasise Britain's long-time conviction that the worst threat to world peace still resides in Europe. Both problems require careful consideration and wise decisions. But one point which is bound to come up for discussion is that of finding new ways of bringing West Germany into the allied defence system. Many competent observers are now convinced there is little likelihood of getting a general agreement on the plan for a European Army with German contingents, and the alternative appears to be to bring West Germany into the wider sphere of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. The Washington conference is described as "an informal meeting without an agenda," which can be interpreted to mean that the talks will be exploratory and that no irrevocable commitments will be made on either side. Nevertheless it must be assumed that the conference will seek a wide measure of agreement which can be later translated into co-operative action.

## Vietnam Govt Resigns

### Successor To Bao Loc Named

Paris, June 16. Ex-emperor Bao Dai, as head of state, accepted today the resignation of the Vietnam Prime Minister, Prince Buu Loc, and asked the Catholic nationalist leader, Ngo Dinh Diem—nicknamed "Vietnam's Syngman Rhee"—to form a government.

Ngo, an extreme right-wing member of the old Mandarin class, left Indo-China in 1949—to mark his disapproval of the Bao Dai regime, according to Vietnamese quarters.

Spending a year of his voluntary exile in the United States, he established many close links there. It is expected here that he will be attacked by the Communists on the ground that he is "the American Government nominee."

Resignation of the Government headed by Prince Buu Loc, who is Bao Dai's cousin, was unanimously agreed upon at a Cabinet meeting lasting 20 hours.

It had been in office six months. The largest of the three Indo-China States is now without a government at the same time as France itself.

Ngo's appointment was seen here as an attempt to win the support of Vietnamese nationalists who have refused to co-operate so far with the Bao Dai regime.

### GOVT OF TECHNICIANS

Prince Buu Loc was obliged to form last March a "government of technicians" after failing to win the support of the main Vietnamese parties.

Though known as a firm anti-Communist, Ngo has not clearly stated his views about the Indo-China war and some diplomatic quarters here believe that he favours negotiations with the Vietnamese to bring about controlled general elections.

He is known to have maintained contact with non-Communist elements in the ranks of the Vietnamese until recently.

At one time, Ngo is known to have favoured Bao Dai's resignation.

In 1948 he refused Bao Dai's offer to head a new government because of France's failure to grant Vietnam real independence.

In 1943 Ngo resigned from his post of Minister of Interior to protest against alleged French violation of treaties with Annam. He was Premier under the Japanese but in March 1945 he declined a Japanese offer to become Governor of Cochinchina.

Subsequently he was arrested by the Vietnamese and refused to participate in the first government formed by the rebel leader, Dr. Ho Chi-minh.

Prince Buu Loc is expected to return to his former post of Vietnam High Commissioner in Paris.—Reuter.

## Terrorist HQ Seized

Tunis, June 16.

French troops today uncovered a resistance headquarters in this strategic African protectorate as a cabinet crisis developed within the Tunisian government.

French mobile guards and paratroopers who have been rushed here within the past two weeks today uncovered the headquarters of the chief of the so-called "Army of Liberation"—Lazar Chraïbi.

In a routine raid in the Debba Kour area where bands of Fellaghas have been terrorising isolated farm communities in the last month, the headquarters were discovered, including Fellagha banners and stores of munitions. Here, in Tunis, meanwhile, it was reported by reliable sources

## Conciliatory Proposals By Chou En-Lai

### 4 VITAL POINTS

Geneva, June 16.

The three Communist delegations injected new life into the flagging Indo-China peace conference here today with proposals that brought the two sides nearer than they have been since the meeting opened five weeks ago.

The conference had been on the brink of collapse. Many delegates believe the Communist move resulted directly from the warning by Britain and the United States on Monday that they would seek to close down the talks if no progress were made today.

Western delegates are still far from convinced that agreement is possible but they are more optimistic than they have been for a long time.

The majority view is that the Laos-Cambodia issue is the more important part of the Indo-China problem because it could lead to a major source of friction between East and West.

The four major points which have created most hope are broad hints rather than concrete concessions by the Communists.

These are:

1. Acceptance that the three Associated States do present different problems.

2. Agreement that the foreign forces to be withdrawn from Laos and Cambodia are not necessarily only French.

3. An offer to consider permitting the import of arms into Laos and Cambodia for "self defence" after a ceasefire.

4. A proposal that the military commands should meet here and on the spot in Indo-China to consider the dispositions of the opposing troops in the two States.

The Communists have always said they would agree to treat the three States separately but have not till today appeared to draw to clear a distinction between Laos and Cambodia on the one hand, and Vietnam on the other.

It was noted today that, with the exception of Mr. Molotov, the Communist delegates referred to the two States for the first time as Laos and Cambodia and not "Pathet Lao" and "Khmer," the usual Communist names for them.

### NEAR ADMISSION

In accepting that there were foreign forces other than French, the Communists came near to admitting that there were Vietnamese forces from Vietnam in the two States. Hitherto they have vigorously denied that there were any Vietnamese invaders in Laos and Cambodia.

The Communists have so far insisted that the ban on reinforcements of men and materials after an armistice should be total.

Laos and Cambodia rejected this demand as an attempt to limit their sovereignty.

The two States are prepared to accede to the Communist insistence that no foreign bases be

established on their territory. This might have the effect of "neutralising" them between East and West.

The Communist suggestion that the military representatives meet here to negotiate armistice arrangements for Laos and Cambodia could mean that they will allow the Vietnamese Command openly to represent the anti-government forces.

The suggestion by Mr. Chou En-Lai, the Chinese Prime Minister, that the military experts could deal with the "disposition" of forces rather than their "regroupment" could also be significant.

The term "regroupment" has been used by both sides in referring to the areas into which opposing troops would move pending a full political settlement. "Disposition," on the other hand, implied that there would be no suggestion of partition, even temporarily.—Reuter.

## 4 PUERTO RICANS CONVICTED

Washington, June 16.

Four Puerto Ricans were convicted today on charges arising from the shooting incident in the House of Representatives on March 1 in which five Congressmen were wounded.

They are Lolita Lebron, 34; Rafael Miranda, 25; Andres Cordero, 29; and Irving Rodriguez, 28.

Each faced 10 counts of assault.

The jury found them all guilty of five charges of assault with a dangerous weapon—carrying a maximum penalty of 50 years imprisonment.

Their decision on five more charges—obscuring assault with intent to kill—has still to be announced. Maximum penalty is 75 years imprisonment.

Judge Alexander Holtzoff had instructed the jury to bring in separate verdicts on each of the 10 counts.

The four said they did not intend to harm the Congressmen. They had only wanted to draw attention to Puerto Rico's pleas for independence.—Reuter.

## D-Day Plus 10 Years



People all over Europe remembered June 6. They remembered how ten years before, the Allies landed on the Normandy beaches and began the push against the enemy which proved to be the turning point of the war. Field Marshal Montgomery was one of the thousands who remembered and is seen in this picture about to place a wreath on the memorial at Ranville, Normandy.—London Express photo.

## Poles Allegedly Admit Murdering Sir Jack Drummond

Paris, June 16.

The Surete National disclosed today that it had been notified by American military authorities that three Poles arrested in West Germany claim to have been responsible for the 1952 triple murder of the British food expert, Sir Jack Drummond, and his family—a crime for which a Frenchman, Gaston Dominici, is being held.

French police sources were inclined to doubt at first whether the Poles were involved since the French farmer Dominici is now awaiting trial for the killing in the south of France. But in any case verification will be made, they said.

The alleged confession was given in a letter either to German or American military police in the occupation zone, a Surete spokesman said. The letter or its contents were transmitted, according to the Surete, to the American Communications Zone Headquarters for France in Orleans.

There the American investigators turned it over to the local judicial police who alerted Paris Surete headquarters. The three Poles were reported to have been detained in another affair and sent in their "confession" after having been held for some time.

American authorities in Orleans had no immediate comment. They suggested, however, that the Poles probably were held by German rather than American authorities.

### SENSATIONAL CASE

The Drummond murder case was one of the most sensational in postwar France.

Sir Jack, 51, British war hero, and his wife Lady Anne, 48, were cut down with an American-made carbine as they camped by a country roadside near Lurs in Southwest France the night of August 4, 1952. Their 11-year-old daughter Elizabeth was chased and had her skull fatally smashed in with the carbine butt a few moments later.

The triple crime occurred close to the farmhouse of a mountain family, the Dominici. French police questioned them for months before learning that the son of the family, Gustave Dominici, 24, had found the little girl still alive next morning but had done nothing to save her or alert the police. Last year police arrested the father and accused him of committing the crime.—United Press.

## 9 Killed At Coal Mine

Fukuoka, Japan, June 16.

Nine persons were killed today when a slag pile at a coal mine near here loosened and buried their homes under tons of dirt. The mishap occurred at the Kameyama pit of the Japanese Coal Mining Company. The slag heap, more than 400 feet high, loosened with a reverberating roar in the pre-dawn hours. A 100-foot-long mass of slag, on the pile's western slope slid down and buried two houses located at its foot and dislodged two other homes.

Rescue teams immediately rushed to the scene to dig out the victims and after five hours of a desperate battle with time recovered the lifeless bodies of nine persons. They included a mother and three babies.

Four others miraculously escaped death but were in serious condition. Twenty-two others were injured in varying degrees. An investigation was started to find the cause of the landslide.—United Press.

## NORMALISING RELATIONS

Geneva, June 16.

Britain and Communist China have agreed here to "normalise" their diplomatic relations shortly, informed diplomatic sources confirmed today.

Red China will appoint a Charge d'Affaires to head a small diplomatic mission of the Peking regime in London, the sources said.—United Press.

## French Political Crisis

## Vital Vote May Be Postponed

Paris, June 16.

M. Pierre Mendes-France, French premier-designate who is to go before the National Assembly for investiture tomorrow afternoon, might ask that the vote be postponed until the next day if the debate lasts too long. It was believed here today. In this case the result of the vote, which remains uncertain, would not be known before Friday evening.

Many deputies, including the Socialists and particularly the Socialist group supporting the European Defence Community seem to be waiting for M. Mendes-France's statement of policy before deciding whether to support him. M. Mendes-France is reported to be seeking a compromise on the thorny EDC question.

Partisans of the treaty, mostly Christian Democrats, object that this procedure might result in the same situation as with the investiture of former Premier Joseph Laniel last year. M. Laniel got the Gaullist votes, but this compelled him to give up raising the redoubtable debate in the Assembly under a threat of seeing his cabinet fall apart. The attitude of the Communists remains unknown.—France-Press.

## Forest Fires Out Of Control

Toronto, June 16.

Additional men were flown into tinder-dry Northwestern Ontario today to the aid of 1,500 fire fighters battling to control five forest fires which were out of control over 15,000 acres of timberland.

Light showers helped fire-fighters stall the biggest of the fires after it had burned out 20,000 acres of timber in the White River district. A second uncontrolled fire in the White River district had charred 3,500 acres in the town of Collingwood.

Four more uncontrolled fires were burning in the Gogama and Cochrane districts. Officials recruited 300 men off the streets of Timmins and out of Northern Ontario to help in an attempt to stop the huge blazes. A total of 19 fires were burning across the northland, including five each at White River and Cochrane, three each in the Kapuskasing and Gogama districts, two near Fort Arthur and one at Geraldton.—United Press.

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## KING'S PRINCESS

AT 2.30, 5.15, 7.20 & 9.30 P.M. AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.

FINAL TO-DAY



★ TO-MORROW ★

"THE 72 MARTYRS OF CANTON"

A CHINESE PICTURE IN MANDARIN  
WITH AN ALL-STAR CAST

## CAPITOL LIBERTY

LAST 2 DAYS

AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.  
ON PANORAMIC SCREEN



COMMENCING SATURDAY



## ROXY & BROADWAY

GRAND OPENING TO-DAY

Owing to length of picture please note change of times:  
AT 2.30, 5.20, 7.30 & 9.40 P.M.  
NOW SEE ALL THIS IN ITS FULL GRANDEUR IN THE  
MAGIC SPLENDOR OF CINEMASCOPE!

THE ROYAL TOUR IN  
CINEMASCOPE

"ROYAL TOUR of  
QUEEN ELIZABETH"

IN EASTMAN COLOUR  
AND THE WONDER OF STEREOGRAPHIC SOUND  
BRITISH MOVIE NEWS 20th CENTURY-FOX

ADDED ATTRACTION: Cinemascope Short Subject  
"THE NEW VENEZUELA" IN TECHNICOLOR  
COMING ATTRACTION  
Charles COBURN • George "Foghorn" WINSLOW in



## ORIENTAL

SHOWING TO-DAY  
2.30-5.30-7.30 & 9.30 p.m.

ON OUR NEW GIANT WIDE SCREEN!



## Lyttelton Replies To Appeal By Malayan Alliance

London, June 16.

The Colonial Secretary, Mr Oliver Lyttelton, told the House of Commons today he had asked the High Commissioner of Malaya to discuss with the rulers a request for an independent commission on Malayan constitutional reforms.

Mr Lyttelton was replying to Mr Stan Awbery (Labour). Mr Awbery had asked what requests he had received for the setting up of a commission of Commonwealth members to consider the proposed constitution of the Malayan Legislature and what was his reply.

Mr Lyttelton said: "The alliance of the United Malaya National Organisation and the Malayan Chinese Association have asked for an independent commission consisting entirely of members from outside Malaya to be sent immediately to the Federation with the concurrence of Her Majesty and their highnesses, the rulers, to report on constitutional reforms in the Federation. I have told the alliance that I have asked the High Commissioner to discuss their request with their highnesses, the rulers, at their next conference."

Mr James Griffiths, Colonial Secretary in the last Labour Government, asked whether in view of recent developments in the Federation Mr Lyttelton would suggest to the High Commissioner that he should take the initiative in the matter and call a conference of the Alliance and rulers to see if some settlement could be arrived at.

Mr Lyttelton replied that such a course would inevitably lead to great delay in the holding of the elections. Both he and the High Commissioner shared the view that it would be far better to proceed with greater confidence in the constitutional changes which must be proposed as they would then have an elected body to do so.

Later Mr Awbery suggested that further consultations should

be held in Malaya to bring about a mutual agreement on the numbers of elected and non-elected members of the Malayan Legislature. "In view of the fact that the difference between Mr Lyttelton's proposals and those submitted by the Alliance delegation is so small," Mr Lyttelton replied: "No, I am satisfied that the proposals rejected by the Alliance represent the best possible compromise between the views of all major sections of opinion in the Federation and that they meet almost the whole substance of the Alliance's wishes."

### NO JUSTIFICATION

"They have been accepted as the Federation agreement required by the rulers, and there is no justification for reopening discussion of them now at the risk of serious damage to the best interests of the Federation and the certainty of delay in the introduction of Federal elections. "Hitherto the Alliance has held great stress on the importance of holding early elections and I have expressed my agreement."

Mr Awbery asked: "Is it worth while that we should have a civil disturbance in Malaya now, with people refusing to co-operate with the Government in addition to the trouble in the jungle for the sake of a few representatives on the Legislative Council?"

Mr William Proctor (Labour) said the present proposals allowed for a 53 per cent elected majority and the demand of the Alliance was for a 60 per cent majority.

"Do you really think that this narrow difference is impossible of negotiation at the present time, bearing in mind all the great issues at stake in South-east Asia? Will you not go to Malaya and deal with the matter on a personal basis?" Mr Lyttelton replied: "You are under a complete illusion. This matter has been negotiated at great length with the rulers. It would be a breach of faith to make any change without consulting them again. Whether they would agree or not I very much doubt."—China Mail Special.

## US Does Not Want To Intervene

Omaha, Nebraska, June 16.

The Assistant Defence Secretary, Mr Fred Seaton, said today he knew no one in the Government "who wouldn't do anything possible to avoid intervention" in the fighting in Indo-China.

Mr Seaton, keynoting the 28th annual convention of the Reserve Officers Association, said: "I don't know any responsible official who has ever wanted or worked for a unilateral intervention in Indo-China."

"That ought to be on the record. You've read too much the other way."

The Indo-China situation, he said, is neither black nor white. "America realises Indo-China's loss would be a serious one to the free world."—United Press.

## Princess Margaret Helped Direct This Play



Eliza Maxwell, internationally famed society personality, dressed up for the part she is to play in the production of Edgar Wallace's thriller "The Frog" which is being given by a cast of Mayfair socialites at the Scala Theatre, London. With her is Peter Ward, one of the members of the cast. Princess Margaret is co-director of the production, and others taking part are Billy Wallace, Lord Forrester, Lord and Lady Norwich, Lord Carnarvon, Lord Brooke, and others whose names are familiar in Debut. — Central Press Photo.

## Capture Of Red Rebel Imminent In Philippines

Manila, June 17.

An Army spokesman disclosed yesterday that the capture of the top Philippine Communist, Jesus Lava, who carries a US\$65,000 prize on his head, was imminent.

The spokesman said that the Army was expecting to get Lava this week or early next week.

He pointed out that Army intelligence verified that Lava was within the area of operations where several Army contingents are now, but refused to disclose the area, though earlier reports said that Lava was somewhere in Southern Luzon.

Should Lava be captured or killed, it will be the death knell of the Communist armed movement in the Philippines.

Disident Huk supreme, Lulu Taruc has already given himself up and is now about to face trial.

Reinforcements will be rushed today to bolster Government troops.

troops locked in heavy fighting with the more leader, Hadji Kanton in the forest fastness of Jolo Island.

Reports reaching Manila yesterday said that during operations of the last week, two enlisted men were killed and five other soldiers wounded, including a lieutenant.

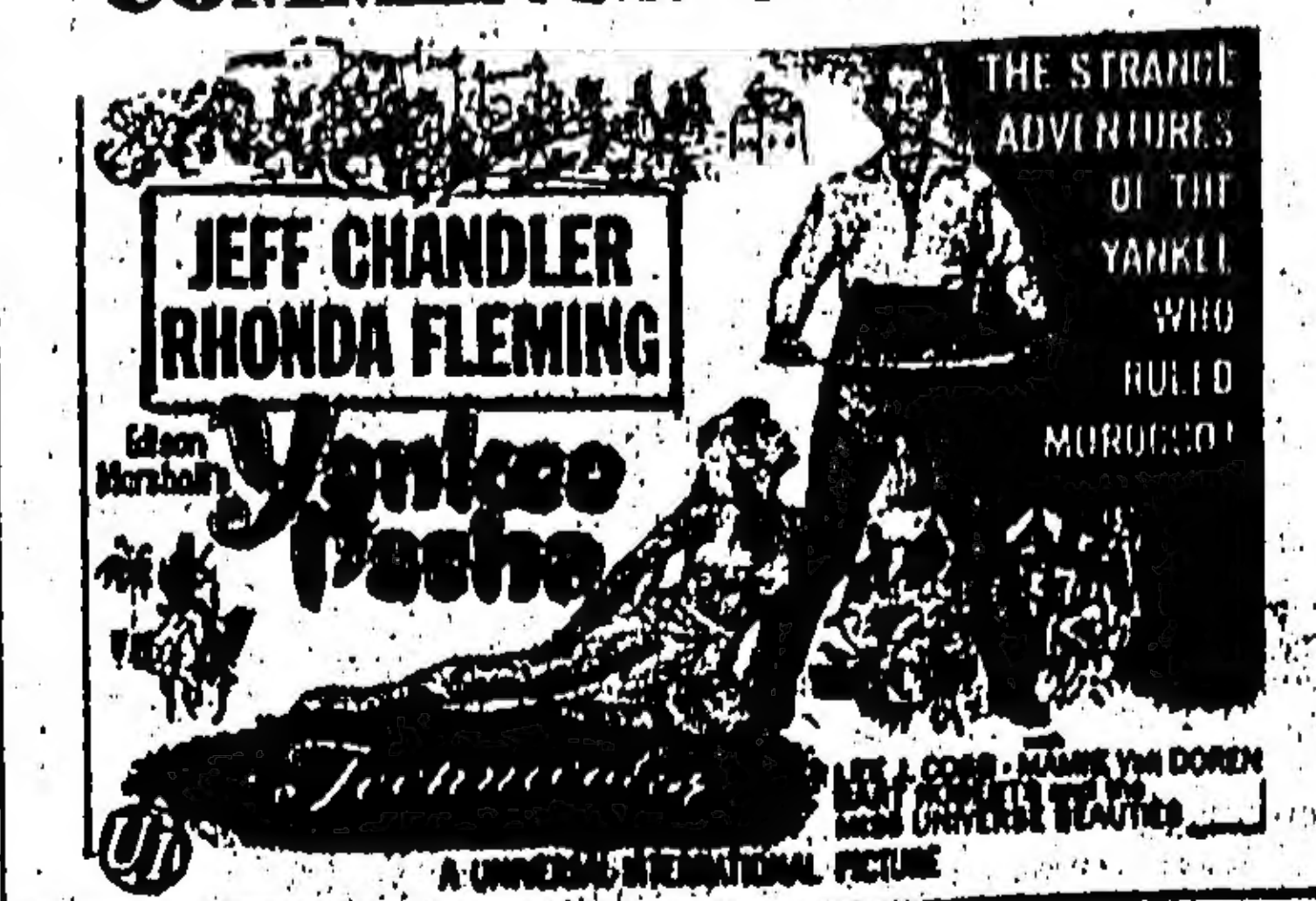
On the other hand, the reports said that a bandit leader was captured and that several of Kanton's followers were killed or wounded.

Five heavily-fortified posts have already been seized by Government troops. — France-Press.

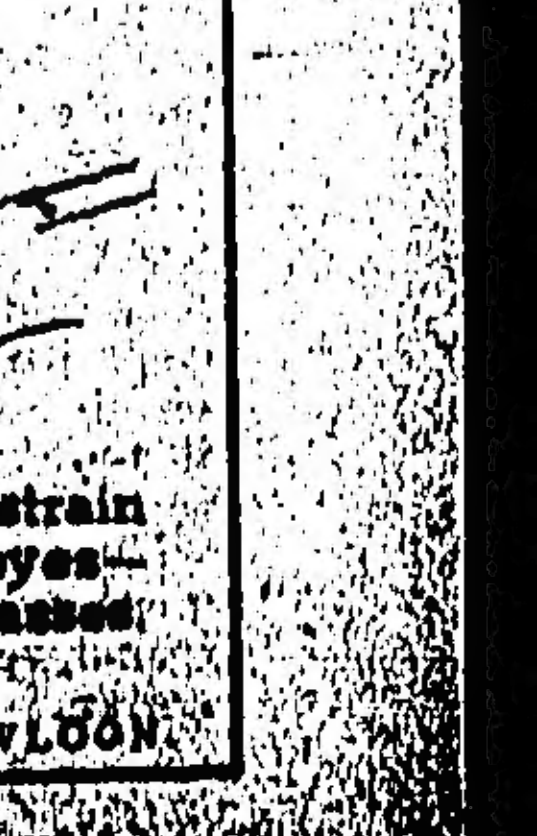
## LEE GREAT WORLD

DAILY AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.

COMMENCING TO-DAY



### POP



## QUEEN'S & ALHAMBRA

SHOWING TO-DAY



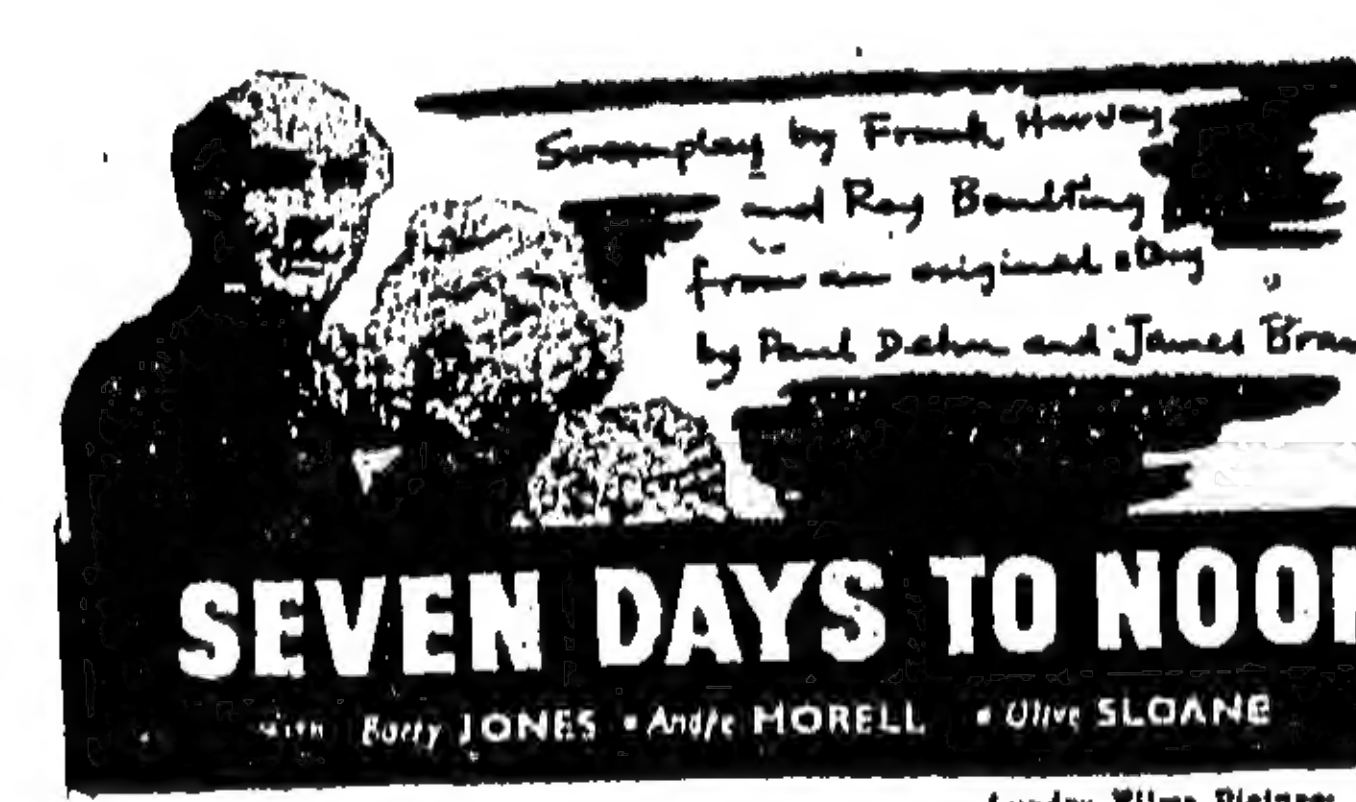
## HOOVER

TO-DAY  
AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.



## EMPIRE

A LONDON FILM'S PRODUCTION  
Barry JONES  
in



Missing scientist caused great disturbance in one of the largest cities in the world. TENSE!

## MAJESTIC

TO-DAY  
AIR-CONDITIONED

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## Attlee Speaks At Copenhagen



Mr Attlee, seen here with Mr H. C. Hansen, the Danish Foreign Minister, as he addresses a Social Democrat Party rally in the "Fælledparken" in Copenhagen. Mr Attlee said, "one thing needed for world peace was that Russia should renounce her fanatical belief that it is her task to enforce throughout the world her Communist creed."—Express Photo

## French Newspaper Deplores Crisis

Paris, June 16.

The independent newspaper, *Le Monde*, said tonight that the absence of France from next week's talks between President Eisenhower and Sir Winston Churchill was a sign that her influence in world affairs was steadily diminishing.

*Le Monde* recalled the delayed start of the Bermuda talks last year "while we indulged in the luxury of one of our periodical government crises. This time there is no question of inviting our ministers to Washington."

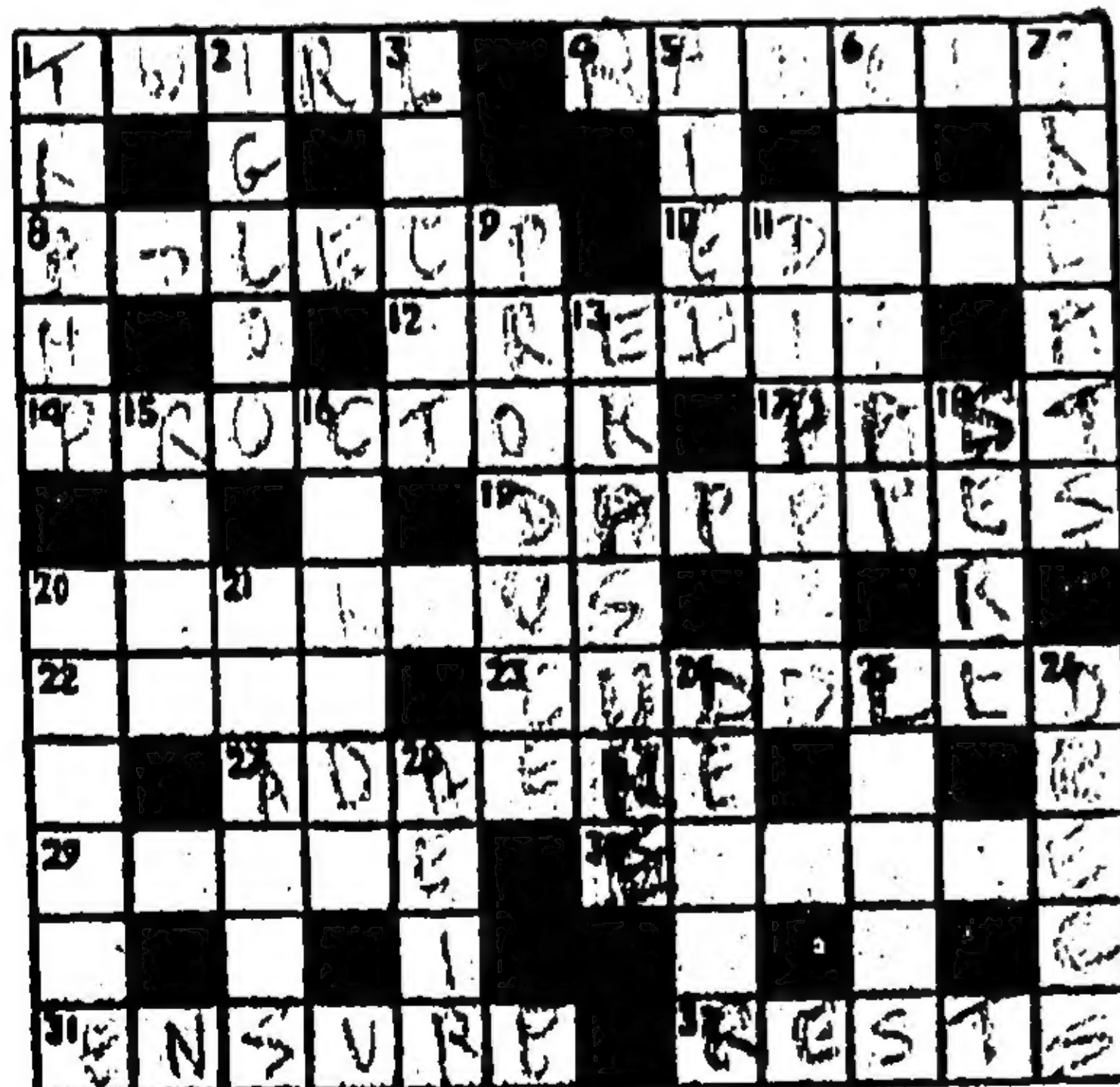
"One can judge from this how our influence in world affairs is steadily diminishing. The fact is the more visible and humiliating because the two main items on the agenda, Indo-China and German rearmament, both concern France—the first to a much greater extent than the second, at least as much as Britain or the United States."

"In fact, the real subject of the talks between Sir Winston Churchill and President Eisenhower will be the absence and default of our country."

*Le Monde* argued that "France's resignation" and President Eisenhower's hesitation over the future of United States policy had enabled Sir Winston Churchill to regain the leading part he always wished to play in international affairs.

"The only grounds for consolation to be found in this affair is not for our self-respect, but for our desire for peace—is that Sir Winston seems less ready than ever to abandon the hope of negotiating a settlement with the East," *Le Monde* said.—Reuter.

## A British Crossword Puzzle







"Remember, men—my Grandma's Rommel and the rest of 'em are dangerous Jerry troops."

London Express Service



## INSIDE RUSSIA

with  
**RENE  
MacCOLL**



*This is Georgia—where moustaches make a man and it's an insult to sip brandy*

Travelling reporter Rene MacColl is on his way through the heart of the Soviet land. This despatch comes from the colourful country where Stalin was born.

TIFLIS (Caucasus). A pretty good fun after three days — and some of the citizens sport panama hats and white vests worn outside the trousers, Cuban style.

Others prefer sheepskin shukos, dyed brown, and leggings. Feminine clothes whiz all the way from European-type flowered summer dresses hanging straight to the garish gipsy-like costumes of the Kurdish women street cleaners.

There is bright sunshine here in Georgia — I've got

**Against skin disease and itching**  
**Mitigal**  
A GENUINE BAYER PRODUCT  
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**DON'T WASTE WATER**

Moscow is more than 1,500 miles away — and seem more. I like it a whole lot better here than I did in Moscow. For one thing the people are more exuberant. They seem to enjoy life and they are extremely picturesque.

A man without a moustache in these parts is a man ill-equipped. Moustaches run right down the line from Clark Gable to R.A.F. jobs. (One ancient shepherd I met way out in the mountains had a piece of lip undergrowth so tangled that it made me feel sorry on his account that egg soup is one of Georgia's greatest delicacies.)

The men tend to have lustrous liquid eyes and sideburns. And all those chaps who look like Armenians — the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic being just next door.

I must try to get used to the old Georgian customs, for as I walked into the restaurant which soars on a mountain high above the city — you reach it by a steep funicular railway — a swarthy man with a mighty direct gaze to him leaped to his feet and beckoned me peremptorily to his table.

They were a tough-looking bunch his friends clustered around, and one character was fast asleep head down on the table amid a juniper forest of bottles.

The swarthy one held out a full glass of something which

proved to be chacha, a Georgian brandy of great potency ("If one drinks chacha the head continues to feel nice, but the leg is not working," it was later explained to me). I sipped this but the swarthy one insisted on no hesitations.

Learning that I was "Angli-ski," he grinned and remarked: "Ah, then I beat you" or may be it was "Then I bet you" — but anyway it seemed meant in a good spirit.

This is an old Georgian custom of hospitality to the stranger," explained my guide as we broke away. "It is intended

In the evening as the heat wanes the town comes out for a stroll. People amble up and down the main street, under the plane trees, enjoying the flowers; chatting, laughing, arm in arm; having a shoe-shine on one of the high shoe shine thrones; buying a drink of kvass, a sweet barley drink from a barrow boy with sweeping handlebar moustache; getting weighed on a kerbside weighing machine; window-shopping.

Stand there in Rustaveli Street (named after Georgia's greatest poet — his gigantic statue dominates one end of the street) and in five minutes you will see perhaps a dozen different racial types go by — and half a hundred mixtures.

This is Georgia — and immensely proud of it. You must not make the gaffe, as I did at first, of talking about Russia if you mean Georgia. Russia is somewhere else entirely. This is the autonomous Georgian S.S.R., which has been joined with Russia since the start of the last century.

The Georgian language is even harder to master than the Russian.

I went to the ballet at the Opera House here a spirited affair, performed of course by Georgian dancers.

The orchestra gave me a bit of a shock. True, the conductor was in faultless evening dress with white tie — but his men

Every member of the large orchestra had peeled his jacket and was tieless. There they all were, playing away, in their brown and blue and pink and striped shirts, the double bass with his sleeves rolled up, and the drummer who almost had to move his moustache out of the way before he could get at his instrument.

I found myself heaving with inward laughter, and my companion asked what the joke was. But I couldn't explain that I had just had a vision of Sir Thomas Beecham striding to the podium and glancing down to find himself confronted with this wonderful collection.

But let's get away from all this, drive out of town — and it's a land of vast and compelling beauty. Mountains and huge valleys, and rivers which are always in a hurry. Cherry and peach and apple trees in loaded blossom. Great flocks of sheep on their way to the spring pastures.

And a young man, strolling along a road among buttercups and forget-me-nots, strumming a chonguri to the singing of his companions — a chonguri being a Georgian balalaika, only narrower, like the blade of an

## BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN SLOW BUT SURE STRANGULATION

By Ritchie McEwen

AS the Communist noose draws tighter around the satellite countries of the far-flung "Russian Empire," private enterprise is slowly but surely being strangled out of existence.

The larger and more important undertakings, of course, have long since fallen under the Hammer and Sickle, and now the full weight of the Party machine is directed against the small-time shopkeepers and the one-man business.

Rumania (the most 'progressive' of the subject territories under the Red Star banner) is now getting a real taste of Democracy — the People's version.

To begin with, no Rumanian may carry on business on his own without a trading licence. As these licences have to be approved by the local Communist 'Co-op,' which controls the State-owned 'competition' across the street, they are hard to come by.

Once he has a licence a Rumanian shopkeeper is not allowed to give it up, retire, or sell his business without special permission from the Ministry of Trade.

To make sure he doesn't interfere with the profits of the State 'Co-op,' he is forbidden to:

1. Carry on a wholesale business.
2. Deal in second-hand goods.
3. Sell cereals, fish, oil, lard, bacon, cattle, horses, donkeys, pigs, sheep, goats, or their meat or preparations made from this meat, hides of any kind, (including dog pelts), sausages, tins, etc.

pins, leather footwear, cotton or cotton fabrics, wool or woollen fabrics, silk fabrics, fodder, seed, petroleum and petroleum products, timber, paper, stationery, or antiques.

Just to make matters a trifle more difficult for your Rumanian 'capitalist,' he may not:

1. Lay in supplies exceeding his weekly requirements.
2. Buy from the State-run wholesale firms any articles for resale other than: wine and spirits, tobacco, cigarettes, matches, stamps, sugar, bread, salt, ready-made clothes, newspapers, periodicals and posters (1) — and a special licence is required to deal in even these items.
3. Purchase agricultural products on markets or other places where farmers sell their products direct to the consumers.
4. Buy farm produce in any areas other than those specially designated by the Ministry of Home Trade.
5. Make more than 15 per cent gross profit on each item sold, or sell articles at a lower or higher price than the local State 'Co-op.'

NEW measures aimed at 'discouraging' workers from becoming ill are being introduced on a wide scale in the satellite countries — modelled on 'exemplary' practice in Mother Russia.

A comrade who commits the 'crime' of falling sick and cannot go to work is regarded with the gravest suspicion and treated accordingly.

For he is holding up the vital flow of armaments and other goods for the Soviet war machine, which is already bogged down with quite enough headaches or questions of supply and production without being burdened with the additional problem of having to cope with large numbers of seedy workers among the subject peoples.

Workers' certificates are examined by Party officials with the same care as a bank teller would scrutinise a brand new bank note, and are then passed on to the sick man's foreman whose duty it is to make a 'lay investigation' and report on the 'symptoms.'

The foreman appoints a panel of the patient's fellow workers — specially picked for their 'patriotism' — to visit him every day to offer 'moral help and encouragement' and to make sure that the wretch isn't just shirking.

If the unfortunate man — or woman — is seriously ill and has to go to hospital, he or she is still not free from 'comradely attention' and the 'Party Commission,' on whose diagnosis the treatment, or lack of it, ultimately depends.

Although all workers in the satellite countries make compulsory 'National Health' contributions based on their wages and salaries, the 'benefits' they receive when they are ill are arbitrarily decided by a 'Commission' of his (or her) fellow workers. Was he/she a patient who is unpopular at the works?

Hospital patients are treated with the contempt they deserve. Few hospitals have sheets, or enough blankets in the winter, and comforts are restricted to the 'irreducible minimum.' In the Szekesfehervar hospital near Budapest, for instance, the patients are made to eat their meals with their fingers. A knife, fork and spoon would be 'wasted' on the feeble and unproductive sick.



as a compliment. It means he did like your presence and character."

(This guide possesses a brand of English which has me in stitches. I was feeding a stray cat some chicken bones after a picnic and the guide observed: "Ah, now the lucky cat is in the seventh sky.")

You look down on Tiflis from this tunicular restaurant and it is nearly all red-coloured. A pity that, because in this hot climate it ought really to be white, like the Riviera towns.

## DON IDDON'S DIARY

### THEY CALL IT THE ZANIEST TOWN IN THE UNITED STATES

Jersey City, Tuesday. THE people of Jersey City have probably had more experience of power-hungry politicians than the people of any other town in the United States. They have had a taste of dictatorship.

For 32 years Mayor Frank ("I am the law") Hague ran Jersey City — its people, its politics, its industries, its habits, and its hobbies. Hague was the law.

He used to shout: "I decide, I do, me!" and the people obeyed.

#### Worth a visit

I THOUGHT that as the junior Senator from Wisconsin, Joseph McCarthy, is now reaching out so desperately for personal power in the country as a whole, it might be an idea to visit Jersey City and see how it is getting along without Hague. I had always been told that Jersey City, scarred and soiled by industry, black with soot, smoke, and stumps, was one of the ugliest communities in America. Some people have even said: "In Jersey City a city or a disease?"

So far as I can see, Jersey City, which is just across the Hudson River from New York, compares favourably with many of our industrial towns in the Midlands and the North. Certainly it is as handsome as Wigan, Warrington, or Bolton.

The approach, once you have left the Jersey turnpike, cuts through factories, wharves, decaying warehouses, and then suddenly emerges into a wide tree-lined boulevard which reminded me of Harrogate or Bath.

#### A flutter

DESPITE Jersey City's lurid reputation there are not many gangsters and little vice. Bookmakers and bars flourish. Jersey City is one of the biggest betting towns in the United States, and the bookmaking syndicates were for years a protected racket.

The streets are cleaner than many of New York's; the people more polite. Journal Square, where the Jersey Journal is printed and where the outdoor political meetings are held, is about half as big as Trafalgar Square, though not so imposing. The square has been quiet during the 'people's' days. I have been here. My guide told me: "You should have seen it in the old days — the old days

being the days of Mayor Hague's domination.

The present mayor is Bernard Berry, an enemy of Hague, and in the hand-picked successor of John Kenny, Hague's fiercest foe, who helped to break the Hague machine.

Kenny was elected mayor for the second time last spring after some busy campaigning, but last December he abruptly resigned as city commissioner (there are five commissioners in Jersey City) and mayor and said: "I am handing over to Berry. I can't take it any more, especially the antics of crackpots."

Jersey City is famous for its antics and its crackpots. Many Americans call it the zaniest town in the whole United States. Even in last year's elections there were barrage balloons, sky-writing, marathon parades, fireworks, brick and egg throwing, dozens of street fights and bigger skirmishes, one fatal shooting, and scores of libel suits for millions of dollars.

#### Getting better

ITS citizens are not too active about criticism, they have had so much. They tell you openly that there has been a good deal of corruption, but that things are getting better. They say: "We are not looking for Utopia, but just for

some slight improvement." They quote the fight promoter, the late Jack Jennings, who said: "It isn't how the ballots go in the box that counts — it's how they come out."

The present mayor is not making much news compared with his predecessor. At the present time his administration is under investigation — this is a great place for probes — by court-appointed Mr. Samuel Lerner, a gifted lawyer.

#### A comeback?

THE Lerner investigation is into city spending under John Kenny and Bernard Berry. There are charges that there have been waste and extravagance.

Frank Hague must be smiling. The man who was mayor for eight successive terms and perhaps the biggest political boss in America (he delivered the entire State vote for Roosevelt) made Jersey City's tax rate the highest in the United States.

To build his machine and make it the smoothest-running in the country Hague stacked the city and county staff with his political henchmen. In some instances he paid judges two salaries, he increased property assessments, and siphoned off millions from the taxpayers. Today, at 77, Hague still lives in Jersey City, although he

takes long holidays in Florida in the winter and regularly attends a sanatorium for rest cures and check-ups.

According to newspapermen I talked to, he has ambitions to make a comeback. It is his dream to replay his star role as a political master mind.

Although he never earned more than \$8,000 a year, his personal fortune is estimated at \$4,000,000, and he himself has admitted to having \$2,000,000. He lives in great style in a Jersey City apartment building which he owns. He has a large summer house and fine cars.

He tells his callers: "If you work hard and stay honest you can grow up like me." He says his fortune came from hot stock market tips from wealthy friends. Whether he will ever climb back into power again is doubtful.

#### Colourful

YOU will gather that this is a tumultuous city absorbed in politics, and with as much colour as a carnival. It is inevitable that it should be intensely interested in Senator Joseph McCarthy.

Some people in Jersey City have said to me: "You can't patch on Bow Hague. He hasn't got the dignity and he hasn't got the organisation."



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# CHINA MAIL

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**SHEAFFER'S**  
 ADMIRAL  
**NEW "SNORKEL" PEN**

Page 10 THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 1954.

## JOHN CLARKE'S CASEBOOK

### Late Night Finale

WEARY from a day's work that ended after midnight, the newspaper executive walked out of his office, took a deep breath of the clean night air, and made for his car.

He had parked the car earlier in one of those country-quiet lanes that wind about the bombed wasteland north of Fleet Street. There were other cars in the lane belonging to others who worked even later feeding news into the morning papers.

The tired man walked down the line to the place where he had put his own and found there an empty space, like a gap in a row of teeth.

He hurried into the roadway. He looked about him over the low-walled landscape.

#### HANDED OVER

A FEW yards away he saw his car, stationary and slowed at an angle to the roadway. He ran to it and saw that at the wheel was a chunky, fair-haired young man. "Hey," said the newspaperman. "What are you doing in my car? Come out of it."

"Okay, mister," the youth said, and obeyed.

The police arrived presently. The young man, whose name was Tom, was handed over and charged with taking and driving away the car without its owner's consent.

#### NAVAL PENSION

"THIS man has an excellent record," a policeman told Mr. Bertram Reece, the magistrate. "He's 22 years old, his home is in Portsmouth. Two years after leaving school, he joined the Royal Navy on a 12-year engagement. He was invalided out with a pension of £11s. a week after service in Korea."

"What did he do then?" asked the magistrate.

"Well, he travelled the country with fairs until last November," the policeman said. "Then he got a £6-a-week job as a pecker until January, when he left to become a waiter at £10 a week."

"He left that job a fortnight ago, and since then, he tells me, he's been living on his savings."

#### HOURS TOO LONG

THE magistrate looked hard at Tom, who stood to attention, Navy-style, and squarely returned the gaze.

"What do you want to say about this?" Mr. Reece asked him.

"Well, sorry sir, had a few drinks."

"You really are a stupid young man," said the magistrate. "I'm quite sure there is no criminality about you, but fancy abandoning a good job for the precarious occupation of doing nothing. Why did you leave that £10 a week job?"

"The hours were too long," said Tom.

"Oh, nonsense," said the magistrate. "There aren't any hours too long for a man of 22. Could you go back to the job?"

"It's the same," said Tom, without enthusiasm. "I think I could if I wanted to."

#### BACK TO WORK

"YOU take my advice and do that," said the magistrate. "I'll discharge you absolutely on the taking and driving away charge. For driving without a licence or insurance policy, there'll be a nominal fine of 5s. and you'll be disqualified from driving for 12 months. All right, that's all, you go and get a job."

"Yes, sir," said Tom. He went away to look for work where the hours were not too long; and the newspaperman, whose evidence had not been needed, hurried back to his job in which the working hours are apt to be—say newspaper executives—all of every 24.

## McCarthy Makes An Admission

Washington, June 16. Senator Joseph McCarthy admitted on the witness stand today that he had signed a document which he earlier claimed he "never seen."

The document was private David Schine's application for a commission.

Mr. Joseph Welch, the Army's Counsel, produced a photograph of the application made by Schine—McCarthy's former assistant—during today's hearing of the McCarthy-Army dispute. Schine is the central figure in the exchange of "pressure" and "blackmail" charges between the Secretary of the Army, Mr. Robert Stevens, and Senator McCarthy.

Mr. Welch referred to sworn testimony given by Senator McCarthy on June 10 in which he declared he knew nothing about Schine's application for a commission.

When Mr. Welch waved the photographs before him, McCarthy said with a grin: "Don't tell me I notarised it."

"No," Mr. Welch replied quietly. "You merely signed it."

The Senator added: "May I still say I don't know anything about it?"

Mr. Welch said he believed the conflicting evidence should be brought out. But he did not consider it "a devastating thing."

After examining the photographs, McCarthy noted: "I want to make it clear it was notarised by Bob Stevens." Mr. Stevens has accused him and his chief counsel, Mr. Roy Cohn, of exacting improper pressure to get special treatment for private Schine.

In turn they have charged Mr. Stevens and the Army of using Schine as a hostage in an attempt to sidetrack an investigation into alleged Communist activities in the Army.

Earlier McCarthy protested that Democratic members of the Sub-Committee investigating his dispute with the Army wanted to send him to prison for mis-handling security information.

"They want to put me in jail," he complained. "Heater."

## Mail Notices

The latest times of posting ships below are those for unregistered correspondence posted at G.P.O. Hongkong. The latest posting times elsewhere are: (i.e., times can be ascertained by enquiry at the local office.)

The latest times for registered articles are generally one hour earlier than the times shown below. Particulars regarding parcel mails can be ascertained by enquiry at any post office.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 17**  
 By Air  
 Philippines, North Borneo, 6 p.m.  
 Macao, 6 p.m.  
**FRIDAY, JUNE 18**  
 By Air  
 Philippines, 9 a.m.  
 Thailand, Burma, India, Ceylon, Pakistan, North Borneo, 10 a.m.  
 Formosa, Japan, Korea, 2 p.m.  
 Indo-China, 5 p.m.  
 Thailand, India, Ceylon, Pakistan, Middle East, Africa, Great Britain & Europe, 6 p.m.  
 Malaya, Indonesia, 6 p.m.  
 N. Borneo, Australia, New Zealand, Formosa, 6 p.m.

## Radio Hongkong

H.K.T.  
 6. Time Signal and Programme Summary: 6.05, Jazz Half Hour presented by Robin Day (Studio); 6.30, Portuguese Half Hour (Studio); "Hit Parade" (Studio); 7.00, Ten Top Tunes presented by Bernard Hicks (Studio); 7.30, "Down Memory Lane" presented by Joe Brown (Studio); 8.00, Weather Report; 8.10, "Sumner's Lightning" (Studio); 8.15, "Special Announcements"; 8.30, "Sumner's Lightning" (Studio); 8.45, "Sumner's Lightning" (Studio); 9.00, "Sumner's Lightning" (Studio); 9.15, "Sumner's Lightning" (Studio); 9.30, "Sumner's Lightning" (Studio); 9.45, "Sumner's Lightning" (Studio); 10.00, "Sumner's Lightning" (Studio); 10.15, "Sumner's Lightning" (Studio); 10.30, "Sumner's Lightning" (Studio); 10.45, "Sumner's Lightning" (Studio); 11.00, "Sumner's Lightning" (Studio); 11.15, "Sumner's Lightning" (Studio); 11.30, "Sumner's Lightning" (Studio); 11.45, "Sumner's Lightning" (Studio); 12.00, "Sumner's Lightning" (Studio); 12.15, "Sumner's Lightning" (Studio); 12.30, "Sumner's Lightning" (Studio); 12.45, "Sumner's Lightning" (Studio); 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